



SECRETARIA DE AGRICULTURA,  
GANADERIA, DESARROLLO RURAL,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACION

**AGRICULTURAL OFFICE  
EMBASSY OF MEXICO**

February 17, 2004

**Standardization Section  
Fresh Products Branch  
Fruit and Vegetable Programs  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 1661  
South Building  
Stop 0240  
Washington, DC 20250-0240**

**Attention: A. J. Yates  
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services**

**Re: Petition to Create U.S. Standards for Grade of Mangos**

Dear Administrator Yates:

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Foods of Mexico ("SAGARPA") hereby provides its comments in response to the notice published in the *Federal Register* on December 16, 2003 (68 *Fed. Reg.* 69984) with respect to the development of a grade standard for mangos. The *Federal Register* notice stated that the standard could contain sections relating to grades, size classifications, color definitions, tolerances, and application of tolerances, pack requirements, definitions, and other relevant and necessary provisions.

In this regard SAGAPRA wishes to express its support for the development of such standards by AMS, on its own behalf and on behalf of Mexican growers of mangos. As you are aware, Mexico is the largest supplier of mangos to the U.S. market, and while we support and encourage an orderly market,



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we are concerned of any impact the development and applications of standards for mangoes might have on our exports.

With this in mind, we would like to bring to the attention of AMS that the Government of Mexico is also in the process of creating an official norm NOM for mangos in Mexico. SAGAPRA would welcome the opportunity to work with AMS to ensure the harmonization of the standards being created for mangos in both countries. SAGAPRA can not over-emphasize the importance of ensuring that standards created in both countries are equivalent.

SAGAPRA favors the creation of standards for mangos in the U.S. market, and looks forward to working with AMS to ensure the harmonization of these standards with those being developed by SAGAPRA in Mexico.

**Sincerely,**

**Enrique Lobo N.  
Agricultural Minister**